

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5591
EDWARD CONLEY/SEOUL

MARCH 3, 1978

SOUTH KOREA: TONGSUN PARK AND "TEAM SPIRIT"

ANNCR:

TWO-STORIES ARE DOMINATING THE FRONT PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS IN SEOUL THIS WEEK. ONE DEMONSTRATES THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO SOUTH KOREA. THE OTHER COULD HINDER AMERICAN EFFORTS TO ASSIST SOUTH KOREA DEFEND ITSELF. VOA CORRESPONDENT EDWARD CONLEY HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT:

VOICE:

BANNER HEADLINES WELCOME THE START OF "TEAM SPIRIT SEVENTY EIGHT," AN ELEVEN DAY JOINT MILITARY MANEUVER BEING CARRIED OUT BY SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND SOUTH KOREAN AND ABOUT FORTY THOUSAND UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE LARGEST OF A SERIES OF JOINT EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN SOUTH KOREA, "TEAM SPIRIT SEVENTY EIGHT" IS DESIGNED TO SHOW THE SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN RESPONSE TO HELP REPEL AN INVASION FROM THE NORTH IN THE CASE OF KOREA AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS TYPE RESPONSE IS APPLICABLE IN THE CASE OF UNITED STATES COMMITMENTS WORLD WIDE.

BUT THOSE SAME FRONT PAGES CARRY ANOTHER STORY PROMINENTLY TOO: THE CLOSED DOOR CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING IN WASHINGTON OF KOREAN BUSINESSMAN PARK TONG SUN -- THE SO-CALLED CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE ALLEGED KOREAN INFLUENCE BUYING CASE ON CAPITOL HILL -- AND CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS THAT A FORMER SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES ALSO BE FORCED TO TESTIFY. UNLESS MISTER PARK'S TESTIMONY IS DEEMED SATISFACTORY AND UNLESS FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO -- ANOTHER FIGURE WHO REPORTEDLY

TOOK PART IN THE BRIBERY SCHEME -- APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESS, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. MILITARY AND OTHER AID PROGRAMS TO SOUTH KOREA WILL NOT BE PASSED BY U.S. LAWMAKERS.

THE NEWS FROM WASHINGTON READ HERE IN SEOUL INDICATES THAT CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS ARE NOT ENTIRELY PLEASED SO FAR WITH PARK TONG SUN'S TESTIMONY. AND FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM REMAINS IN SEOUL UNDER THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY WHICH FREES HIM FROM HAVING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. SO, FOR KORFANS AND AMERICANS ALIKE READING A NEWSPAPER IN SEOUL THESE DAYS, TEAM SPIRIT SEVENTY EIGHT AND TESTIMONY ON CAPITOL HILL IS SOMETHING AKIN TO WATCHING A TENNIS MATCH AND THE VOLLEYS ARE GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER.

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JS/RTD